

**I CLAIM:**

1. An alcoholic beverage dispenser comprising:

a housing having a top end formed with a beverage inlet;

5 a holding tank mounted in said housing and in fluid communication with said beverage inlet, said holding tank being adapted to hold an alcoholic beverage that was poured into said housing through said beverage inlet;

10 a cap member disposed removably on said top end of said housing for closing said beverage inlet;

a cooling device mounted in said housing and coupled to said holding tank, said cooling device being operable so as to lower the temperature of the alcoholic beverage held in said holding tank; and

15 a dispensing valve mounted on said housing, coupled to said holding tank, and operable so as to permit discharging of the alcoholic beverage from said holding tank.

2. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 20 1, wherein said holding tank includes an inner container made of a heat-conductive material and adapted for holding the alcoholic beverage therein, and said cooling device includes a heat-exchanging pipe wound around said inner container.

25 3. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said inner container has an outer surface formed with a helical groove, and said heat-exchanging

pipe of said cooling device is wound around said inner container along said helical groove.

4. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said holding tank further includes a thermal insulating sleeve to cover said heat-exchanging pipe and said outer surface of said inner container.

5. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 2, wherein said cooling device further includes:

a compressor;

a first pipe for coupling said compressor to said heat-exchanging pipe;

a heat-dissipating device;

a second pipe for coupling said compressor to said heat-dissipating device;

a third pipe coupled to said heat-dissipating device;  
a capillary device interconnecting said third pipe and said heat-exchanging pipe; and

a coolant circulating through said heat-exchanging pipe, said first pipe, said compressor, said second pipe, said heat-dissipating device, said third pipe and said capillary device.

6. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a temperature setting device mounted on said housing and coupled to said cooling device, said temperature setting device being operable so as to detect the temperature of said holding tank and so as to control operation of said cooling device for

lowering the temperature of said holding tank to a user-defined value.

7. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 6, wherein said temperature setting device includes:

5       a control panel mounted on said housing and operable so as to set the user-defined value;

      a temperature sensor mounted on said holding tank to detect the temperature of said holding tank; and

10       a controller mounted in said housing and coupled electrically to said control panel, said temperature sensor and said cooling device,

      said controller activating said cooling device when the temperature detected by said temperature sensor is higher than the user-defined value set through said control panel.

8. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said control panel includes:

      a power switch for controlling activation of said temperature setting device;

20       a cooling indicating lamp activated by said control panel when said controller activates said cooling device; and

      temperature setting keys for setting the user-defined value.

25       9. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising a heating device mounted on said holding tank and operable so as to raise the temperature

of the alcoholic beverage held in said holding tank.

10. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 9, wherein said heating device includes an electric heating rod that extends into said holding tank.

5 11. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a temperature setting device mounted on said housing and coupled to said cooling device and said heating device, said temperature setting device being operable so as to detect the temperature of said  
10 holding tank and so as to control operation of one of said cooling device and said heating device for adjusting the temperature of said holding tank to a user-defined value.

12. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim  
15 11, wherein said temperature setting device includes:

a control panel mounted on said housing and operable so as to set the user-defined value and so as to set operation of said temperature setting device in a selected one of a cooling mode and a heating mode;

20 a temperature sensor mounted on said holding tank to detect the temperature of said holding tank; and

a controller mounted in said housing and coupled electrically to said control panel, said temperature sensor, said cooling device and said heating device,

25 said controller activating said cooling device when said temperature setting device is operated in the cooling mode, and the temperature detected by said

temperature sensor is higher than the user-defined value set through said control panel,

said controller activating said heating device when said temperature setting device is operated in the heating mode, and the temperature detected by said temperature sensor is lower than the user-defined value set through said control panel.

13. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 12, wherein said control panel includes:

a power switch for controlling activation of said temperature setting device;

a function switch for selecting operation of said temperature setting device in one of the cooling mode and the heating mode;

a cooling indicating lamp activated by said control panel when said temperature setting device operates in the cooling mode;

a heating indicating lamp activated by said control panel when said temperature setting device operates in the heating mode; and

temperature setting keys for setting the user-defined value.

14. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a level-sensing device for providing an indication as to level of the alcoholic beverage in said holding tank.

15. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said level-sensing device includes:

a level-sensing probe set extending into said holding tank; and

5 a level-indicating lamp set mounted on said housing and coupled to said level-sensing probe set;

said level-sensing probe set detecting the level of the alcoholic beverage in said holding tank and activating the level-indicating lamp set to indicate  
10 the detected level of the alcoholic beverage in said holding tank.

16. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising a fan mounted on said housing for dissipating heat generated in said housing.

15 17. The alcoholic beverage dispenser as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said housing includes a bottom wall, a peripheral wall extending upwardly from a periphery of said bottom wall, and a top wall opposite to said bottom wall and connected to said peripheral wall, said top  
20 wall being formed with said beverage inlet, said dispensing valve being mounted on said peripheral wall.